

IN SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

AUGUST 8, 1842.

Ordered to be printed.—To accompany Senate bill 312.

Mr. GRAHAM submitted the following

REPORT :

*The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the memorial of David Welch, report :*

That the petitioner is a Stockbridge Indian, sixty years of age. He alleges that, in 1813, he volunteered as a private soldier in the service of the United States, under the command of Captain Sackrider, Colonel Syrenius Chapin; that, in the spring of that year, he and other Indians were engaged for a service of three months; that they went, as directed, to Buffalo, to Fort Niagara, and then crossed and took Fort George. That said petitioner, and the party with Colonel Chapin, were made prisoners on the Canada side, and were put into boats to be taken to Montreal; that they rose upon the British and retook themselves, and took the British force prisoners, and brought them under Niagara fort. At the end of this engagement the petitioner, and many others, were again engaged as volunteers, and served six months longer. That the wound he received at Fort George being a flesh wound, and fearing to go into hospital, but continuing with the troops, became inflamed, and lameness ensued; that this lameness has increased with age, and that now he is incapable of obtaining a livelihood for himself and wife. The petitioner can neither read nor write; and states that, in consequence of the death and separation of his comrades, he has been only able to obtain the testimony of one comrade. That both his colonel and captain are dead.

Charles Towsee, a witness, testifies, that he served as a volunteer under the command of Captain Sackrider, of New York volunteers, under the command of Colonel Cyrenius Chapin, in the last war, and that he was well acquainted with David Welch, and knew him as a private in the same company; and that said Welch was wounded while doing duty in said company at Fort George, in Upper Canada.

Doctors Asa Graham, and Havens, and Beardsley, testify as to the character of the wound, which they think will probably render him, in some degree, a cripple for life.

Cyrenius Chapin testifies, July 11, 1829, that David Welch was a volunteer frequently with him and Captain Sackrider, and bears testimony that Welch had said that he never received any pay; thinks that Granger ought to have paid the Indians, but presumes, from his incorrect habits, he has failed to do so.

Many neighbors bear testimony to Welch's good character, and to his crippled state.

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This direct and indirect testimony is corroborated by the military letters forming part of the history of the last war, in which the leading incident recited by the ignorant and illiterate petitioner is confirmed by Colonel Chapin's own account of the retaking of the boat from the British. The rolls of this service were all burnt when the War Office was destroyed in 1814. The committee feel justified in viewing the testimony in a favorable aspect, and beg leave to report a bill for the relief of the petitioner.